

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26 & 27 are currently pending. Claims 18, 22, 25 and 28 are hereby canceled. Claims 1, 10, 16, 17-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that claim 6 recites allowable subject matter but is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

Independent claims 1 and 16-28 have been amended to include features of claim 6 and are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 7-9 and 11-15 depend from claim 1 and are also in condition for allowance.

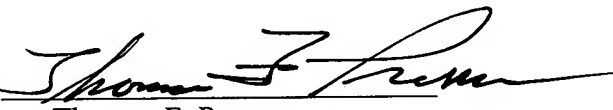
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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